

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 SS-20 NSC-10 AF-10 DRC-01 MC-02

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5158

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, PO

SUBJ: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION-PORTUGAL

REF: USNATO 3939

1. NATO TRILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL REVIEW OF PORTUGUESE 1974 TO 78 FORCE PLANS AS PRESENTED IN PORTUGUESE REPLY TO DPQ (73) WAS HELD IN SINGLE SESSION ON OCTOBER 25. CHAIRMAN CHARACTERIZED PORTUGUESE DEFENSE EFFORTS AS BEING AT HIGH LEVEL WITH LONGEST CONSCRIPTION TERM IN ALLIANCE; BUT STRESSED THAT MOST OF DEFENSE EFFORT IS ABSORBED OUTSIDE OF NATO AREA AND PORTION OF DEFENSE BUDGET FOR EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION IS VERY LOW. PORTUGUESE REP (WITH NO ATTENDANCE FROM NATIONAL EXPERTS) SAID PORTUGAL IS AN IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHICAL ASSET TO NATO DEFENSE AND CLAIMED PORTUGAL IS IMPROVING ITS FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO. HE SAID PORTUGAL HOPED TO OBTAIN MODERN MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT THROUGH BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE U.S. PORTUGAL ALSO HOPES TO ACQUIRE A MODERN ALL WEATHER FIGHTER THROUGH EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.

2. PORTUGUESE REP EMPHASIZED THAT HIS COUNTRY HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF WELL-TRAINED TROOPS WHO COULD BE AN ASSET TO NATO IN CONFIDENTIAL

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TIME OF CRISIS. IN AN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN LOW EXPENDITURE LEVEL FOR EQUIPMENT, PORTUGUESE REP SAID THAT PORTUGUESE FORCES ARE NOT EQUIPPED WITH EXPENSIVE, SOPHISTICATED ARMS, AND THAT SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS ARE NOT NEEDED IN AFRICA. PORTUGUESE REP

ALSO ATTRIBUTED PLANNED LARGE INCREASE IN PERSONNEL OVER 1974
TO 1978 PERIOD TO SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF GUERRILLA WAR IN
AFRICA. RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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